



# The BRIDGE

*A quarterly newsletter for Coast Guard Members and Families of Marine Safety Office Duluth*

*Issue No. 3 July-September 2003*

## **CO's Corner**

Hello, I hope this newsletter finds you well and happy. We've finally gone from a white frozen world to green grass and flowers. Spring is always a busy time at MSO Duluth and this past quarter was no exception, in this newsletter we've attempted to capture some highlights of the events and share them with you. For something to look forward to, mark your calendar for August 4th, our annual picnic at Park Point. It'll be a great chance to meet and get to know the new families that have arrived this summer; extend a warm welcome to LCDR Mark Ledbetter, wife Jennifer, son Tyler, MST1 Tyler Behnke, wife Kristine, daughter Emily and MST2 Jason Hamp and wife Shannon. And remember and maybe share news of the families that have moved on this transfer season. We wish good luck to LCDR Palmiotto and MST1 Todd Mann on their PCS and CWO2 Bud Palmer and Chief Jim Couture on their retirements.

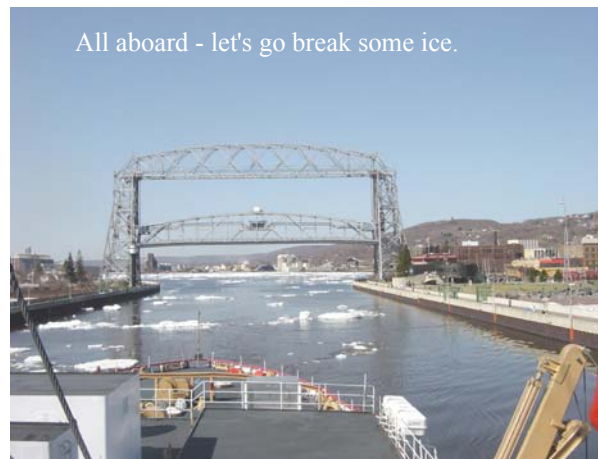
## **What's Going On at the Unit?**

**Admiral's visit April 16 -18, 2003.** Rear Admiral Silva visited STA Duluth, ANT, ESD and SUNDEW Monday and Tuesday, spent overnight Wednesday in Bayfield, WI and Thursday at STA Portage. Friday his visit to MSO Duluth consisted of a staff briefing, a walk through spaces and an all hands, at which RADM & Master Chief Wozniak presented awards (see Awards below). Before returning Friday evening, he had meetings with local DHS partners and the Duluth Port Authority Director and staff. Admiral's visit concluded with dinner at the Pickwick with MSO senior staff members; Commander Nguyen, Commander Guenard, Lieutenant Farrell, Lieutenant Schultz, Admiral's Aide Lieutenant Soliz, District Nine Master Chief Petty Officer Wozniak and Duluth Port Authority Director Mr. Ojard and Mr. Ray Skelton attending.

**April Icebreaking:** USCGC MACKINAW, and USCGC MORRO BAY were in the Port for springtime icebreaking.



**The Blatnik Bridge 1st part of April 2003.  
Winter is slow to leave the Port.**



D9M Captain Helland and MCPO Clemons visited MSO June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

This past spring was very busy, with 16 plus lakers layed-up to get ready for the new shipping season. International Falls Daily Journal interviewed LT Farrell for an article regarding CG's role in maintaining maritime security and continuing routine examinations in the Boundary Waters Area of Minnesota. LT Farrell attended an Armed Forces Tribute at the Four Corners Elementary School.

LCDR Palmiotto was the guest speaker at the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's annual "First Ship Ceremony", that celebrated the arrival of the Norwegian-flagged M/V MENOMINEE, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 1130, the first salty of the season. The MENOMINEE, a regular caller to the Port has an exemplary safety record, carried 1800 metric tons of German lumber. Inbound shipping opened March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Note:** Due to heavy ice conditions the 2003 shipping season was delayed from March 25<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. The MENOMINEE opened last year's ocean going shipping season also, with an April 2<sup>nd</sup> arrival date. The earliest opening since the 1959 opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway was April 1, 1995.

MSO conducted a series of TV/Radio/newspaper interviews regarding local interest in the use of the Duluth's diaphone foghorn. This is an old time foghorn that is extremely loud (far surpassing necessary audio levels), but its unique sound is important to the local maritime history and atmosphere. The contract for running and maintaining the horn ran out and wasn't renewed by the city due to some time of use disputes. The CG foghorn, originally used as a backup (known as the "peanut whistle" due to its unimpressive volume), is now the primary foghorn while the contract dispute continues.

MST1 Mann, MK3 Pierre Genereux, MST3 Genevieve Aragon, and MST2 Jonathan Smith served as color guard for the Maritime Community Day at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) May 22nd.



Commander Greg Guenard presented a Memorial Day message at Lowell Elementary School's Memorial Day Program, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also speaking was Duluth Mayor Gary Doty. The Program consisted of students performing patriotic music, band, string and choir, a color guard, rifle salute and the playing of taps. The event was well attended with over 40 people in the audience.

## Advancements & Awards

Rear Admiral Silva came bearing awards during his visit to the MSO on Friday April 18th. Awards received were: Commander Nguyen - Meritorious Service Medal; MST3 Aargon - D9 Sailor of the Year Plaque; MK3 Pierre Genereux - Maritime Law Enforcement Boarding Officer Qualification Letter; MST3 Ryan Moehn - Facility Inspection Qualification Letter. Congratulations and keep up the good work!



CDR Nguyen



RADM Silva

Congratulations Capt



MCPO Wozniak MST3 Aargon RADM Silva



MK3 Genereux

RADM Silva



LT Farrell MST3 Moehn RADM Silva



Congratulations Rvan!

Congratulations to MST1 Mann for passing his FOSCR board. BZ!!

**Recognition given at all hands May 19:** MK1 Morton received a letter of appreciation from Lowell Elementary School for his presentation to the students on the missions of the CG since 9/11. PO Mann received "M" (Marine Safety Pin) pin and thank you letters from Captain Gephart for excellence in proctoring mariner license examinations.

MSO hosted service wide examinations for all local Duluth area units.

MST2 Wilson and Moehn completed their boarding team member PQS and passed their oral boards. Waiting on weapons quals for final BTM designation.

MST1 Mann qualified as Federal On-Scene Coordinator's Rep. This qualified him for the M Professional Pin, which was presented to him in a separate ceremony.

### ***Reenlistments, Retirements, and RELAD's:***

The U.S. Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award was presented to Mr. Davis Helberg, Duluth Port Director, upon his retirement March 31 after 24 years of service. The award is the highest Coast Guard recognition, other than for life saving, that the commandant can award to an individual who is not a Coast Guard employee. MSO Duluth presented him with an honorary crewmember award. Mr. Helberg made a significant contribution to the area and will be missed. Mr. Adolph Ojard was appointed to fill the position.



Coast Guard Reservist MST1 Blaine Shelton re-enlisted April 21, 2003 at an All Hands Meeting. CDR Guenard swore him in.

LCDR Palmiotto and MST1 Mann departed PCS. Chief Warrant Officer Bud Palmer and MSTC Jim Couture departed on retirement terminal leave.

### ***Personals***

**Arrivals - Next Generation Coast Guard:** Lincoln Jacob Moehn born to MST2 Ryan and Rachel Moehn April 10, 2003. Jacob Andrew Guenard, sixth grandchild for CDR & Mrs. Greg Guenard arrived May 2, 2003, weighing in at a whopping 6 lbs 13 oz. Ask papa and mama, Pierre and Carissa Genereux, to see the picture of their bundle arriving around Christmas.

**On the Mend:** LT Schultz is maneuvering the stairs again, fully recovered from knee surgery and soon ready to tackle the repair of the other knee. It was nice to see CWO Bartholomew's smiling face again after returning from a stint in SIQ. We all wish Mr. B. a speedy recovery as he again faces medical repairs. (A little drastic just to get the summer off?)



## ***Morale Activities***

Thanks to all for a good Morale Event at the Incline Station Bowling Center. If you didn't know, the unit has a new "Ringer" to give Petty Officer Genereux incentive to get back on the lanes. MST2 Hamp had high game at **215!** CWO3 DiDomenico set a new gutter ball record, which may stand for a long time. Petty Officer Aragon gets some thanks for looking for a sunken car while Mr. DiDomenico was throwing gutter balls! Mr. Bartholomew takes credit for teaching LT Farrell the "Samsonite" method of bowling, which resulted in LT F. beating Mr. B. by one pin. MK1 "Cliff" Morton perfected the art of throwing strikes with a piece of pizza in his mouth. Thanks to all, especially the acting XO who made it happen!

The next Morale event will be Coast Guard Day, August 4<sup>th</sup>, picnic at Park Point.

Morale Officer is CWO3 Larry DiDomenico. The Morale Board is comprised of several MSO crewmembers led by Chairman MST2 Wilson. Thanks go to the Morale committee for planning these activities and PO Wilson and for spearheading them.

## ***Wellness and Community Outreach***

MSO personnel participated in Duluth RIVERQUEST. For three full days, we teamed with ten other agencies including the Port Authority to bring 600 sixth graders down to the waterfront and take them on ½ day tour of the harbor on an 84' passenger boat. Once underway we divided them up and rotated them through ten stations. For the Coast Guard, we plugged life jackets, taught them some knot tying techniques, and did our Sea Partners water pollution presentation.

MST2 Ryan Moehn has been doing a great job in coordinating our Wellness Program and Community Outreach.

## ***Adopt-A-Highway***

MSO Duluth personnel were out cleaning our adopted portion of Highway 23, May 12, 10 full loads of trash was picked up.

## ***Medical***

Station Duluth Health Service Technician  
HS2 Dawn Wiezorek (218) 720-5412 Extension 101

## ***Safety***

COMDT Messages: There are just too many references to put into this letter; instead, we have attached a few pages in this edition. We recommend that you go to these web pages and follow relevant links for excellent info.

<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/holidayseason.htm>

<http://www.uscg.mil/MLCLANT/KDIV/KSEHOMEPAGE.HTM>

## **Work-Life**

The following booklets are available for you to pick up in the yeoman's office:

- (1) Becoming A Father;
- (2) Your Child's Behavior & You;
- (3) Handling Misbehavior, Tips for Parents;
- (4) Success in School.

A Coast Guard office in Cleveland, OH provides valuable information, points of contact, and policy guidance regarding the service's Work-Life Programs. In addition to the attached handouts, be sure to check out the listed web sites for more complete information.

[http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/Isc\\_Cleveland/worklifehome.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/Isc_Cleveland/worklifehome.htm)

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wk/g-wkw/worklife/index.htm>

[http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/Isc\\_Cleveland/ombcoord.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/Isc_Cleveland/ombcoord.htm)

## **Unit's Calendar**

**Scheduled Morale Events:** Picnic Coast Guard Day, August 4<sup>th</sup> at Park Point.

<http://www.uscg.mil/mwr>

[http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/Isc\\_Cleveland/mwr.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/Isc_Cleveland/mwr.htm)

Army & Air Force Exchange Service – <http://www.aafes.com>

Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC) - <http://www.afvclub.com>

**DULUTH COMMUNITY EVENTS:** For more complete and current information, check out the following web sites: <http://www.visitduluth.com/events/> <http://www.visitduluth.com/attractions/>

## **Useful References and Important Telephone Numbers:**

**LEGAL MATTERS:** Coast Guard Legal - Steve Lynch, Legal Assistance Attorney, (216) 902-6042,

[slynch@d9.uscg.mil](mailto:slynch@d9.uscg.mil) <http://www.uscg.mil/d9/D9Legal/HomePage.html>

**IMPORTANT TAX INFO:** Tax Change Means More Service Members Qualify for Earned Income Credit

[http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2002/n04262002\\_200204266.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2002/n04262002_200204266.html)

IRS hotline (800-829-1040)

**PAY TIPS:** Pay tips – Human Resources Services and Information Center

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/hrsic/paytips.htm>

<http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem>

**HEALTH CARE NEWS:** Please review the attached newsletters that were forwarded from HS2 Wizeorek.

You can review them online at: <ftp://thems:newsletter@139.161.156.101>

TriCare Website - <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

<http://www.triwest.com/>

**UNIT WEBSITE:** USCG Marine Safety Office Duluth home page -

<http://www.uscg.mil/d9/msoduluth/msoduluth.htm>

**EDUCATION INFORMATION:** Coast Guard Institute <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/index.html>

### ***Other Useful Websites:***

#### Coast Guard

<http://www.uscg.mil/d9/uscgd9.html>  
[http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/lsc\\_Cleveland/ischomepage.html](http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/lsc_Cleveland/ischomepage.html)  
<http://www.cg-exchange.com/>  
<http://www.fredsplace.org>  
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/kids/kidindx.html>  
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/cb/CGMagazine.htm>

#### Local Interest

<http://www.duluthchamber.com>

I hope you enjoyed this edition of *The Bridge*. Ideas, pictures, articles and announcements for inclusion in this newsletter are always welcome. Please contact Ms. Julie Envall or YN2 Andy DePoe at (218) 720-5286 or by e-mail. Please provide your email address if you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by email.

[jenvall@msoduluth.uscg.mil](mailto:jenvall@msoduluth.uscg.mil).